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Cracking Down on Voter Fraud

Voter ID Law to Affect November Election

This November, Hoosiers will have the opportunity to exercise one of their most precious freedoms available—the vote.

It is the Legislature's responsibility to adopt policies that protect our representative democracy by ensuring each vote cast is valid and legal. The General Assembly did just that during the 2005 Legislative Session, passing a law that mandates that all voters must now present a photo ID in order to cast a vote.

Years ago, poll workers knew the people in their precinct and had no reason to question someone's identity. Now, it is increasingly common for Election Day volunteers to live in another town or city than the one in which they are serving. The voter ID law gives poll workers a tool to verify a person's identity.

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles has agreed to grant photo IDs free of charge to those who cannot pay the \$9 fee.

In order to better accommodate Indiana voters, BMV branches will be open the day before the election and will remain open late on Election Day. Residents of state-licensed nursing homes are exempt from showing identification if the polling place is located inside the facility in which they live. The bill also protects the rights of those who have a religious objection to being photographed.



Voters who show up at the polls without identification will be able to fill out a provisional ballot. They then will be required to visit the county clerk or election board's office and show an ID or object on religious grounds.

Photo IDs are required for many commonplace circumstances that Americans face every day, like renting a video or obtaining a library card. It only makes sense that a photo ID be required for something as important as voting.

NEW FIREWORKS LAW MUST BE CHANGED

Legislators are concerned about noise and safety

Earlier this year, the State Legislature voted to change Indiana's controversial and unenforceable fireworks law. Previously, any Hoosier purchasing fireworks had to sign an affidavit that they would not set them off in Indiana. This law was a complete sham; everyone knew the fireworks would be used in Indiana, and it essentially made criminals of tens of thousands of law abiding Hoosier citizens.

The new law eliminated the phony affidavit rule, and also created some other positive changes, including a ban on sales to anyone under age 18; strong safety controls at sale locations; and a special fund to enhance firefighter training.

Unfortunately, the new law also caused an unexpectedly large increase in the use of both legal *and* illegal fireworks. Many of my constituents have complained of constant fireworks activity during the weeks leading up to July 4th, as well as the size and scope of the illegal fireworks usage. Their pets are frightened, curfews are not being enforced, and the mess left by the fireworks themselves can be substantial.

The new law needs to be changed as soon as possible, and I will work hard to make sure that it happens.

While I do not believe the Legislature will agree to a complete ban on fireworks, I do think that limiting their usage to just a few times per year could find strong support. For example, banning their use on all days except July 3rd, July 4th, and New Years Eve, together with a midnight curfew, would eliminate much of the problem. Any further right to discharge fireworks could be left in the hands of local governments to decide on a community-by- community basis.

I believe that such a solution, while not perfect, would place strong new limits on the use of fireworks, and would provide local law enforcement with the tools to prevent illegal usage, and to enforce a curfew.

Please feel free to share your ideas on a solution. You can email me, send me a letter, or call me at the State House by using the address and numbers shown in this newsletter.



RESTART YOUR ENGINES:
There are countless sites of interest across Indiana. Madison, located in southeast Indiana, is a tourist hot spot. Pictured here is Madison's historic Main Street.

Did You Know...?

... that the average property tax bill went down this year?

... that on June 30, 2006, the state officially overcame a \$600 million deficit and closed its books for the fiscal year with a balanced budget for the first time in a decade?

How to contact Sen. David Long:

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WWW.IN.GOV/S16

Job Creation Legislation Proves Successful

— More jobs for Hoosiers are on the way —

Although the last two legislative sessions have been filled with substantial changes to the way Indiana does business, a priority in the Senate has been job creation. Although government actions cannot create jobs overnight, Indiana is beginning to see results just one year after the major economic development laws of 2005 were implemented.

In 2005, the General Assembly sped up and streamlined the creation of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), created tax breaks for research and development, passed a shovel-ready site development plan and expanded existing tax credits. The result: 85,000 more Hoosiers are working than in January 2005 and unemployment is at a low 4.9 percent.

More jobs are on the way. Recent job announcements include:

- **Honda announcing a \$550 million plant that will employ 2,000 people in Greensburg (the plant will have capacity for 4,000 employees)**

- **BAE adding 36 new jobs at its Fort Wayne facility, in addition to 50 new jobs created in the last year**

- **Rolls Royce committing to bring 600 aerospace jobs to Indianapolis**

- **Ellison Bakery, a manufacturer of cookies and cookie-based products, announcing a \$3.9 expansion of its Fort Wayne operations**

- **Central State Enterprises announcing the construction of a 100-million gallon corn ethanol facility in Montpelier, bringing 200 jobs during construction**

- **Arbonne International opening a 400-employee distribution center in Greenwood**

- **Nestle selecting Anderson for a 300-job facility**

- **Sallie Mae announcing 700 new jobs in Muncie**

Many other announcements have occurred in the past 18 months, many more are expected in the future, and I am committed to continuing to create a job-friendly environment here in Indiana.

MAJOR MOVES MEANS MAJOR MONEY

Northeast Indiana to benefit from lease of Toll Road

On June 28, Indiana closed a lease with Statewide Mobility Partners, which will operate the Indiana Toll Road in exchange for **\$3.8 billion**. That money has been deposited and is currently earning interest at a rate of about **\$500,000 every day**. For an up-to-the-second look at how much interest has been accrued, visit www.in.gov/tos/MajorMoves.htm

All of this money will go toward improving infrastructure in the state of Indiana, and District 16 will see millions of dollars in road improvements in the coming years. In addition to the local projects planned by the Indiana Department of Transportation, the legislature also approved \$150 million in payments to local governments to be used as they see fit.

District 16 will receive \$61.6 million over just two years for the following projects:

- **New Construction — \$27,928,172**
- **Major Preservation — \$33,693,297**

As you can see, Major Moves will generate a significant amount of money for our area that will improve the quality of life. I look forward to seeing a lot more orange construction barrels on the streets I represent in the coming years.



Military Family Relief Fund Bill Signed Into Law

Long's Bill Will Provide Assistance in Time of Need

This year, I authored Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 75, legislation that establishes a military relief fund for the families of Indiana National Guard members and Indiana armed forces reservists called into active duty after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Money for the fund will come from license plate sales. An additional \$15 annual fee will be added on Hoosier Veteran license plates. Proceeds from the plates will be deposited directly to the military relief fund. In addition, the legislation also creates a "Support Our Troops" license plate and provides for a \$20 supplemental fee on these plates.

Approximately 10,000 Hoosiers serve as active members of the Indiana National Guard. Thousands more serve as armed forces reservists. The families of these soldiers sometimes suffer financial hardships when reservists are called to active duty, as many employers

choose to pay little, if any, of the members' salaries while they are away. The military relief fund is designed to provide grants to these families for utilities, clothing, food, transportation, and other basic needs.

The newly enacted legislation contains a provision that allows the Veterans' Affairs Commission to establish the amount, the eligibility criteria, and selection procedures for these grants, while also allowing the Director of Veterans' Affairs to request the General Assembly make an appropriation to the fund.

Every day, these men and women put their lives on the line for our country. In the meantime, they take a significant pay cut from their regular job, making it difficult to provide for the needs of their families. By passing this law, Indiana is extending a helping hand to its citizen soldiers at a time of great personal sacrifice for their state and nation.



Sen. Long visits with Senate pages during the 2006 legislative session. Pages serve an important role in the day-to-day function of the Senate. For more information on serving as a page during the upcoming session, visit Sen. Long's web site at www.in.gov/S16.

Avian Flu vs. Pandemic Flu

Avian flu always a threat, but the U.S. is not in danger of an outbreak

Avian influenza, also known as **Bird Flu**, is a disease of birds that can occasionally affect people. Avian flu is NOT the same thing as a human influenza pandemic, and any report of avian flu in the U.S. or elsewhere in North America would NOT signal the start of a human flu pandemic.

While it is possible that humans could contract a form of avian flu through close contact with a bird, a human pandemic would be the result of a **new strain** of flu that can be efficiently transmitted human to human. Experts say a form of avian flu could potentially mutate into a strain

that can be transmitted human to human, but there is currently NO evidence of any such mutation involving the strain that has been reported recently in Asia, Africa and Europe.

U.S. commercial poultry is produced and inspected at the **highest standards** in the world and avian flu does NOT present a significant risk to the safety of the domestic poultry and egg supply. Pro-active steps are being taken to monitor the risk of avian flu in the U.S. Surveillance of wild and domestic birds is underway nationally, including in Indiana.

While there is no evidence of an imminent human flu pandemic, experts have issued warnings about the possibility, and Indiana is **aggressively preparing** for such an event. The recent Pandemic Influenza Summit at Purdue University brought together officials from both the public and private sectors to discuss steps that could be taken to minimize the impact of any future pandemic. Also, state agencies are working hard to develop "Continuity of Operations" and "Continuity of Government" plans to ensure that essential services will still be provided during a pandemic.

How to Prepare for Pandemic Flu

Be Informed. . .

- Get accurate information
- Develop a plan with your family
- Consult with your doctor
- Check with your employer about your company's plan
- Stay home if you are ill

If pandemic flu hits, stay home. . .

- If you are ill or have ill family members
- If you are especially vulnerable to infections
- Do not attend large group gatherings, including sporting events, religious gatherings, shopping, concerts, etc.
- Anyone with a chronic condition needs to plan with their doctor now the best management plan for them during a pandemic

Family plan: Stock up!

- Food, water, and medications
 - Bottled Water and non-perishable food.
- Diapers and formula for babies
 - 4-week supply.
- Check on elderly and homebound neighbors
- School assignments and games for children
 - Have some toys or games stashed away.
- Pet supplies